Potential of Bio-Tourism and Eco-Tourism

1636. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to popularise Bio-Tourism/ Eco-Tourism in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of great potential in Mysore, Coorg, Chickmangalore and Western ghats in Karantaka; and

(c) if so, the details of support Government are planning to offer to promote Eco-tourism?,

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Ministry of Tourism had formulated the Policy and Guidelines lor Eco-tourism;

(b) and (c) Central financial assistance is extended to Eco-friendly tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State/Union Territory Governments. The following Eco-friendly tourism projects were sanctioned in the State of Karnataka:—

- Kabini River Lodge at Kharapur, Mysore District.
- Kali Wilderness Camp at Dandeli, U.K. District
- Eco-tourism facility at K. Gudi, Chamarajanagar District.
- Eco-Beach Cottages at Devbagh near Karwar.
- Cauvery Fishing Camp at Bhimeshwari and at Doddamakali, Mandya District.
- Tourism Complex at Kudremukh, Chickmangalore District.
- Eco-tourism Reports at Bannerghatta National Park near Bangalore.
- Eco-Tourism Resorts at Hampi.

Selection of Reserved Category Persons

1637. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as provided under para 11 of Explanatory Notes to DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt.(Res.) dated the 2nd July, 1997 persons belonging to SC/ST and OBCs who are selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies/posts reserved for their communities; and

(b) if so, the number of persons belonging to SC/ST and OBCs who have been selected/recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not counted against the "reserved quota of vacancies/posts" for those categories during the last three years under the Ministry of Tourism and Culture?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is being collected and would be placed at the table of the House.

Provision of better tourist facilities

1638. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the light of negative trends in tourism industry especially after September 11,2001 what measures have been taken to attract the private companies to this industry;

(b) whether there has been coordination between the Central and State Governments for providing better tourists facilities in different parts of the country; and

(c) whether there is any plan to study the tourism strategy of the various countries *e.g.,* Malaysia and Indonesia?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of tourism has drawn up a strategy to meet the adverse condition in the aftermath of the incident on 11th September, 2001 to propagate India as a safe and secure destination by stepping up marketing overseas, break new grounds in the countries in East and South, create conditions in which India attains reputation for ethical trade and business practice and give special boost to domestic tourism by promoting new facilities and infrastructure by encouraging investment by private companies in the tourism sector.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government extends fiscal incentives to